

# Teaching Strategies, Methods, and Procedures for English Language Learners in Early Childhood Education Part 1

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## Introduction to Problem

- There is an increasing number of students considered English Language Learners (ELLs) in the U.S.
- Every state now has English learners, though some states have higher concentrations (Shin 2010 p. 13)
- Not every school or district has access to a TESOL (Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages) teacher or language specialist
- These numbers provide an increasing need for effective instructional strategies for general educators to utilize when teaching ELLs
- This is especially important in early childhood years, where some research has been conducted but more is still needed.

## Problem Addressed

With the increasing number of students considered English Language Learners throughout the country, what research-validated methods are appropriate and effective for children in preschool settings and how do these effective methods compare to the strategies currently being utilized?

## Methodology

- Reviewing and synthesizing scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and studies
- Looking at the frequency of the appearance of strategies
- Looking at documented effectiveness of the strategies

## Key Terms

- English Language Learners (ELLs)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- Language acquisition process
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)
- General educator
- Research or evidence-based instructional strategies
- Effective teaching strategies
- Verbal strategies
- Nonverbal strategies
- Family inclusion strategies

## Findings

- Certain verbal strategies were favored
- Manyak & Bauer 2009: Simplifying grammar, slowing down English speech
- Piker & Rex 2008: Bilingual instruction
- Nonverbal strategies often used in conjunction with verbal strategies
- Worthington et. al. 2011: Facial expressions, visual aids or cues, picture cues, word walls
- Family inclusion strategies also favored in this setting
- Barone 2011: Parents and families free to enter and leave classroom during the day

## References

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